

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of operating an inkjet printing mechanism, the method comprising:
 - passing media through a print zone, said print zone including a support apparatus supporting said media thereat;
 - during said passing, applying in a print zone print imaging by application of ink from an ink dispensing element and onto a first surface of said media; and
 - directing an airflow at said first surface prior to the first surface being contacted by a structure downstream of the print zone, said airflow including a first directional component away from said print zone so as to not intersect the print zone and a second directional component into said first surface, said second directional component urging at least a portion of said media against said support apparatus in said print zone, wherein said airflow carries heat energy taken from a heat source performing a function other than heating air and otherwise producing waste heat energy.
2. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein said airflow is directed from an elongate vent.
3. (Original) A method according to claim 2 wherein a length dimension of said elongate vent is generally transverse to a media feed direction of said media passing through said print zone.
4. (Original) A method according to claim 2 wherein said length dimension of said elongate vent is substantially coincident with a width of said print zone.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein said airflow carries heat energy taken from a heat source.

6. (Original) A method according to claim 5 wherein said heat source includes resistive elements carrying electrical current therethrough and having resistance thereto sufficient to produce elevated temperature in said airflow as said heat energy carried by said airflow moving therepast.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 6 wherein said resistive elements include electronic control circuit components serving also to support operation of an inkjet printer.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein said airflow is provided from an elongate vent having a length dimension less than a width of said print zone.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein said waste heat energy originates from electronic control circuit components.

11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein said waste heat energy originates from motor components.

12. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 1 wherein directing said airflow includes directing said airflow from a vent located on a carriage of an inkjet printer, and said applying comprises carrying said dispensing element.

13. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 12 wherein said carrying comprises reciprocating said carriage laterally relative to a feed direction of said media passing through said print zone.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein said second directional component is of sufficient magnitude to maintain said media against said support surface in said print zone.

15. (Original) A method according to claim 14 wherein said second directional component is directed away from said print zone.

16. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein said first directional component is substantially uniform across said media in a direction generally transverse to a feed direction of said media passing through said print zone.

17. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 16 wherein said second directional component varies in a direction generally lateral to a direction of said media passing through said print zone and has greater magnitude at a laterally-outermost portion of said media relative to a laterally-central portion of said media.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein said first directional component varies across said media in a direction generally transverse to a direction of said media passing through said print zone.

19. - 41. (Cancelled)

42. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the airflow is directed from a vent having an opening between the ink dispensing element and the first surface of the media.

43. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the media is passed through the print zone in a first direction and wherein the first directional component is in the first direction.

44. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the airflow is directed through a conduit extending towards the first surface and terminating at a vent proximate to and angularly facing the first surface.

45. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 44 wherein the ink dispensing element is provided by a printhead at a first end of a cartridge having a second opposite end, wherein the conduit extends from the first end to the second end.

46. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 including varying a magnitude of the airflow across the first surface.

47. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 46 wherein the media is passed through the print zone in a first longitudinal direction, wherein a media has a central region and a lateral edge and wherein the first directional component of the airflow is directed at the first surface with a first magnitude at the central portion and with a second greater magnitude at the lateral edge.

48. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 46 wherein the media is passed through the print zone in a longitudinal direction, wherein the media has a central region and lateral edges and wherein the second directional component of the airflow has a first magnitude at the lateral edge and a second greater magnitude at the central region.

49. (Previously Presented) A printing mechanism comprising:
a printhead configured to selectively eject fluid printing material onto a print surface in a print zone;
a pressurized air source having an opening proximate the print surface and angularly facing away from print zone so as to direct pressurized air against the print surface to stabilize the print surface within the print zone and such that pressurized air does not intersect the print zone, wherein pressurized air is directed through a conduit extending towards the print surface and terminating at the opening and wherein the mechanism further comprises a cartridge providing the printhead at a first end having a second opposite end, wherein the conduit extends from the first end to the second end.

50. (Previously Presented) The print mechanism of claim 49 wherein the airflow is directed from a vent having an opening between the printhead and the print surface.

51. (Previously Presented) The print mechanism of claim 49 wherein the print surface is passed through the print zone in a first direction and wherein the opening angularly faces in the first direction.

52. (Cancelled)

53. (Cancelled)

54. (Previously Presented) The print mechanism of claim 49 including varying a magnitude of the airflow across the print surface.

55. (Withdrawn) The print mechanism of claim 54 wherein the print surface is passed through the print zone in a first longitudinal direction, wherein the print surface has a central region and a lateral edge and wherein airflow from the pressurized air source has a directional component directed at the first surface with a first magnitude at the central portion and a second greater magnitude at the lateral edge.

56. (Withdrawn) The print mechanism of claim 54 wherein the print surface passes through the print zone in a longitudinal direction, wherein the print surface has a central region and lateral edges and wherein airflow from the pressurized air source has a directional component away from the print zone with a first magnitude at the lateral edge and a second greater magnitude at the central region.

57. – 60. (Cancelled)

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the airflow is directed at the first surface and at the support apparatus underlying the first surface.

62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the airflow is directed from a vent having an opening between the ink dispensing element and the first surface of the media.

63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the media is passed through the print zone relative to the support which is stationary.

64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the heat energy carried by the airflow preheats the media prior to the media entering the print zone and wherein the airflow is directed at the first surface after the first surface has passed through the print zone.

65. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 64, wherein the airflow carrying the heat energy preheats the media while the media is in a feed tray.

66. (Currently Amended) A method of operating an inkjet printing mechanism, the method comprising:

passing media through a print zone, said print zone including a support apparatus supporting said media thereat;

during said passing, applying in a print zone print imaging by application of ink from an ink dispensing element and onto a first surface of said media; and

directing an airflow at said first surface, said airflow including a first directional component away from said printzone so as to not intersect the printzone and a second directional component into said first surface, said second directional component urging at least a portion of said media against said support apparatus in said printzone, wherein said first directional component varies across said media in a direction generally transverse to a direction of said media passing through said printzone.

67. (Previously Presented) A method of operating an inkjet printing mechanism, the method comprising:

passing media through a print zone, said print zone including a support apparatus supporting said media thereat;

during said passing, applying in a print zone print imaging by application of ink from an ink dispensing element and onto a first surface of said media; and

directing an airflow at said first surface, said airflow including a first directional component away from said print zone so as to not intersect the print zone and a second directional component into said first surface, said second directional component urging at least a portion of said media against said support apparatus in said print zone, wherein the airflow is directed through a conduit extending towards the first surface and terminating at a vent proximate to and angularly facing the first surface, wherein the ink dispensing element is provided by a printhead at a first end of a cartridge having a second opposite end and wherein the conduit extends from the first end to the second end.